



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

Rep. David Obey, Ranking Member • 1016 Longworth HOB • (202) 225-3481

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 11, 2004

Contact: Dave Helfert
(202) 225-3481/ 4223

OBEY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S 2005 BUDGET REVEALS EDUCATION FUNDING REDUCTIONS

Democratic Staff Report Shows Election Year Increases But "Out Year" Cuts

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member David Obey questioned U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige today about the Bush Administration's long term funding priorities for education in a hearing before the Labor, Health & Human Services and Education Subcommittee.

"Congress has been forced to put money into our schools every year over the objections of the Administration," Obey said. "And, while this budget proposal, which comes to us in an election year, makes great fanfare about a three percent increase in education funding in 2005, it then cuts funding for critical programs in 2006 and locks in those cuts until 2009."

Obey referred to data from a report prepared by the Democratic Staff of the House Appropriations Committee that details relatively small increases in 2005 followed by four years of budget cuts for the President's No Child Left Behind education reform package, Special Education and Pell Grants for low income college students.

"Given the demands we are making on every local school in this country, and given the difficulty working families are having paying college bills, a three percent increase is not worthy of a great deal of praise," Obey told Secretary Paige. "But, even more disturbing is your long-range budget plan. Ninety percent of the increase you propose for 2005 would disappear the very next year—\$4.6 billion less by fiscal year 2009, when adjusted for inflation and school enrollment growth.

The Democratic Staff Report, *Leaving the Education Budget Behind: The President's Long-Term Plan for Education Funding*, is available in PDF format at http://www.house.gov/appropriations_democrats/.

###